IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

EBNETH et al

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Serial No.

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Group:

National Phase of:

PCT/EP00/07807

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February 11, 2002

Examiner:

For:

HOMOGENTISATE-DIOXYGENASE

February 11, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title insert the following:

-- This application is the US national phase of international application PCT/EP00/07807 filed August 10, 2000 which designated the U.S. ---

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) An expression cassette as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coding HPPD sequence is linked functionally to the coding sequence of a plant-organellespecific transit peptide.